

BULLER IN TIGHT PLACE

Position of His Troops Explained in a Dispatch to the War Office Last Night.

Spion Kop the Key of the Boer Defenses, and the General Said He Intended to Attack It in Force Last Night.

RESULT AWAITED WITH GREAT ANXIETY

London Afraid Buller's Message Indicates That Worse News Is in Store.

Hard Fighting Reported from Boer Headquarters Near Ladysmith—Road to Oliviers Hoek Held by Lord Dundonald.

LONDON, Jan. 24, 2:15 a. m.—

The following dispatch from General Buller, dated at Spearman's camp, Jan. 23, 6:20 p. m., has just been posted at the War Office:

"Warren holds the position he gained two days ago. In front of him, at about 1,400 yards, is the enemy's position, west of Spion's kop. It is on higher ground than Warren's position, so it will be impossible to see into it properly. It can be approached only over bare open slopes, and the ridges held by Warren are so steep that guns cannot be placed on them, but we are shelling the enemy's position with howitzers and field artillery, placed on lower ground, behind infantry. "The enemy is replying with Creusot and other artillery. In this duel the advantage rests with us, as we appear to be searching his trenches, and his artillery fire is not causing us much loss.

"An attempt will be made to-night to seize Spion's kop, the salient of which forms the left of the enemy's position facing Trichard's drift, and which divides it from the position facing Potgieter's drift. It has considerable command over all the enemy's intrenchments."

Battle Raging Since Saturday.

HEAD BOER LAAGER, Ladysmith, Jan. 22.—A battle has been raging along the Oliviers Hoek road since Saturday, between the Boers, under Pretorius, and 6,000 British. The fighting is in full swing at Spion's kop. The Boers, under Botha and Kronje, have been sent thither.

The British elsewhere are only making a reconnaissance of the Boer position.

President Steyn was under fire at the foremost position of the Free Staters.

LONDON, Jan. 24.—A dispatch to the Daily Mail from Pietermaritzburg, dated Jan. 23, says: "Lord Dundonald holds the road to Oliviers Hoek pass."

Heard at Ladysmith.

LONDON, Jan. 24.—The Daily Chronicle publishes the following heliographed message from Ladysmith, dated Jan. 22, by way of Swart kop, Jan. 23: "Yesterday we could see British shells bursting close to the Boer camp on the plateau this side of Potgieter's drift, but the camp still remains in position there to-day. We heard very heavy firing all this morning. The

bombardment here is slack, but the Boer big gun on Mt. Bulwau is still firing."

GEN. BULLER'S PLANS.

How His Dispatch to the War Office Is Construed.

LONDON, Jan. 24, 4 a. m.—Gen. Buller's great turning movement, of which so much has been expected, has come to a standstill. His carefully worded message to the War Office telling this, after a silence of two days, reads like an apology and an explanation. General Warren holds the ridges, but the enemy's position is higher. The British artillery is playing on the Boer positions, and the Boers are replying. The British infantry is separated by only 1,400 yards from the enemy, but an approach to the steep slopes across the bare open would expose the British to a fatal rifle fire.

General Buller's plans have reached their development. He declines to send his infantry across this zone against formidable positions by daylight, and discloses his purpose to assault the Spion kop heights during the night. This appears to be the key to the Boer defenses. If he takes it and thus commands the adjacent country an important and possibly a decisive step will be accomplished.

It seems that General Buller's dispatch reached the War Office rather early in the night and was the subject of a prolonged conference between Lord Lansdowne, Mr. Balfour and several staff officials. A determination appears to have been reached not to give out the message during the night, but toward 2 a. m. copies of the dispatch were made for distribution among the newspaper offices. These arrived too late for extended comment.

WORSE NEWS MAY COME.

The Morning Post and the Standard touch lightly upon the unpleasant features of the dispatch and take hope from the projected night attack, but all things considered, the dispatch looks like preparation for worse news.

Parliament will meet in five days. The Cabinet had been hoping for one rallying British success to cheer the country and to command generous support for fresh revenue measures. Among these will be probably an increase of the income tax to a shilling on the pound, but this would only provide the cost of five weeks' hostilities. The duties on tobacco, alcohol, tea and coffee are likely to be raised. The Cabinet will meet at the end of the week and discuss the situation.

Political considerations, both foreign and domestic, press upon the military authorities the necessity of speedily accomplishing something. These authorities may have been persuaded to urge General Buller to attempt his great operation without adequate preparation. This impression, whether true or not, is abroad.

Apparently Lord Roberts has nothing whatever to do with General Buller's operation. General Buller and the War Office communicate with each other direct. Buller's scheme was conceived before Lord Roberts arrived at Cape Town, and its execution was begun the day he landed. The fact that the judgment of Lord Roberts has not been brought to bear upon the movement does not add to public confidence.

VIEWS OF THE "THUNDER."

The Times, commenting editorially upon General Buller's dispatch, says: "It can be said to increase the severe strain from which the nation is suffering. We must wait the result of his attempt to seize the formidable Boer position with courage and coolness. His success may be decisive, but the danger of the attempt is evidently great. The intense excitement of the

siege in Ladysmith may be imagined. General Warren is moving with commendable, indeed imperative caution, but it must not be forgotten that delay, however caused, must tell in many respects in favor of the enemy. The Boers have, it is true, fallen back when hard pressed, but they have gained time to bring up men, guns, ammunition and supplies to the position they have selected for their principal stand and to entrench it in thorough fashion, the fashion they understand so well. Until that position has been taken and its defenders routed and badly cut up, the relief of Ladysmith cannot be considered secure."

General Buller reported yesterday that the wounded on Jan. 20 included:

Second Lancashires—Captains Dodd, Whyte and Ormond and Lieutenant Campbell.

York and Lancaster Regiment—Lieuts. Halford and Duckworth.

West Surreys—Captains Baitt (since dead) and Warden and Lieutenants Smith and Wedd.

Staff Captain Dallas.

The Times published a letter from Ladysmith dated Dec. 19, the writer of which says that the besieged then had full rations for at least two months.

BOERS LEAVE MAKEING.

A letter received from Harris Smith relates that three Britishers were shot in the market square for refusing to go to the front when commanded.

The indignation and disgust expressed at the blunders and incapacity of the yeomanry staff, to whom is ascribable the rank failure threatening to overwhelm the movement started with such a fanfare of trumpets, are increasing daily. Those who were able to carry the scheme to success have been met at every turn with red tape and all kinds of obstacles and slights by the inner circle of title incapacity, resulting in scores of good men withdrawing from participation in the plans. In the case of South Bedfordshire yeomanry, a whole company of 170 selected men has disbanded in disgust.

From Vienna comes the statement that the idea of intervention of European powers is gaining adherents in influential quarters. The Daily Mail's correspondent regards the signs as unmistakable, and mentions especially suggestions printed in the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Office journals.

Dispatches from Boer sources describe the renewal of the bombardment of Ladysmith as more heavy than any previous firing and as intended to discourage a sortie, symptoms of preparations for egress from the town having been observed from the Boer positions.

Special dispatches heliographed from Ladysmith on Monday say that the investment has not been relaxed and that the garrison has ceased to speculate regarding the precise date of deliverance. The position of the British forces outside of Natal is unchanged. The forward movement elsewhere appears to be waiting for reinforcements. The Boers continue an active and heavy bombardment of Kimberley.

BOERS INVADE DELAGOA BAY.

Unconfirmed Report that They Will Siege Lourenzo Marques.

LONDON, Jan. 24.—Mail advices to the Daily Mail from Lisbon, dated Jan. 19, say: "It has been officially notified to the government here from Lourenzo Marques that the Boers have committed a breach of neutrality by crossing Portuguese territory from Umballa to Rhodesia. A force of artillery has been sent there from Lourenzo Marques, and the Governor there has demanded reinforcements from here. Everything is being carried out with all possible secrecy, but I am informed on good authority that a portion of the troops have already started for Lourenzo Marques and that others will follow immediately."

The correspondent in question adds: "I am sending a cable with this letter, but I fear it will be suppressed."

The editor of the Daily Mail appends this note: "The telegram was suppressed. Umballa is north of Inhambane, which is a few miles above Cabo das Correntes (Cape Wilberforce), and the movement apparently indicates that the Boers are engaged in gun-running and men-importing through Rhodesia, or that perhaps they are planning to take Colonel Plummer in the flank."

STOCK EXCHANGE RUMORS.

Reports Set Afloat by Operators in Berlin and London.

LONDON, Jan. 24.—The usual crop of rumors was afloat yesterday. On the Berlin Bourse it was reported General Buller had suffered defeat. It was reported on the Stock Exchange here that two battalions of British troops had been captured by the Boers. The officials at the War Department discredited the Stock Exchange stories; also the reports of Lord Dundonald's entry into Ladysmith. They think the former rumors were circulated for Stock Exchange purposes. The officials said to a representative of the Associated Press that no decisive news was expected for two or three days relating either to the relief of Ladysmith or a conclusive victory or defeat, as the operations at present being conducted by General Buller were necessarily of a lengthy character.

Shortly before midnight the War Office announced that it did not expect to issue anything during the night. There had been considerable activity at the War Office all Tuesday, but at 7 o'clock p. m. and again at 9 it was announced no fresh news had been received. At 11 o'clock the newspaper men attended by appointment, and were asked to return at 11:30. They did so, and then found Arthur J. Balfour and other prominent men in attendance. Hopes ran high and there was great disappointment when it was finally given out that nothing would be issued until Wednesday forenoon. Later, however, came the dis-

patch from Buller given elsewhere. It was timely, for Buller's silence was beginning to create alarm.

"LONG TOM" PLAYS HAVOC.

Shot Strikes the Quarters Occupied by Gens. White and Hunter.

HEAD BOER LAAGER, Ladysmith, Jan. 22.—The quarters of Generals White and Hunter were smashed this morning by a shot from "Long Tom." It is not known whether any of the occupants of the building were killed.

The sixty-eighth birthday of General Joubert was celebrated on Sunday by General Rothe making a reconnaissance in force towards the Drakensberg mountains and turning the British advance after a short engagement. General Joubert accompanied President Steyn to the Free State laagers south of Ladysmith. The President was in high spirits. He proposes to make a tour of all the laagers. Ladysmith sent up many colored rockets on Saturday night.

The Boer movement on the British advance above referred to may have reference to General Warren's forward fighting, in which, according to advices from British sources received yesterday, the Boers were on the defensive almost the entire day Sunday, save once when they attempted to outflank the British left and were signally checked.

BOERS LEAVE MAKEING.

They Are Said to Have Wounded of Besieging Col. Baden-Powell.

GABERONES, Bechuanaland, Jan. 17, via Lourenzo Marques, Jan. 23.—Natives who have just arrived report that troops, not Boers, are patrolling around Makeing. From this it is conjectured the Boers may have retired from that place, and that the patrols are some of Colonel Baden-Powell's men.

There is increased activity in the Boer position at Crocodile pools, but with the exception of a few shells Colonel Plummer's outposts have not heard from them to-day.

A reconnoitering force this morning found the Boers on the Basuto hill, which the British, supported by an armored train, occupied. Later to-day the cyclist scouts reconnoitered the Boer main laager ten miles south of Fort Gaberones. They describe it as large and strongly entrenched. The Boers continue the destruction of the railroad near Crocodile.

Only Two Thousand Boers Left.

MAFEKING, Jan. 10, via Beira, Jan. 18.—Since the arduous attack of Jan. 3 the Boers have not fired so many shells at this place. Natives report that the Boer chief gunner is wounded; that five men were killed, and that their breastworks were damaged during the recent engagement. Commandant Erasmus and his friends are reported to have departed and the Boer forces in this vicinity are apparently few in number. Their estimated strength is 2,000 men.

EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS.

Fourteen British Officers to Be Given for Fourteen Field Cornets.

LONDON, Jan. 24.—According to a special dispatch from Pretoria it is reported that fourteen field cornets will be exchanged for fourteen British officers.

The latest advices from Johannesburg, received by the Daily Mail, say that the Boer methods are working ruin to the mines. The Boers pick out the rich ore, leaving the cost of further development to the shareholders. Stores are being robbed wholesale. The safe deposit vaults under the Stock Exchange have been broken open, and jewelry and plate left by refugees have been extracted. Grass is growing in the streets and cattle are grazing in fashionable thoroughfares. There are still about two thousand outlanders in the Transvaal.

How the Dutch Aid the Boers.

LONDON, Jan. 24.—A correspondent of the Daily Chronicle at Sterkstroom, telegraphing Monday, says: "Many Dutch colonists, although ostensibly loyal, really sympathize with the Boers and keep them posted regarding all British movements. They discharge rockets, and make other probable signals to the enemy. A general firing, however, is no longer feared."

WHOLESALE EXPULSION.

All Britons Must Leave the Transvaal—Recruits on French Steamer.

LONDON, Jan. 23.—The correspondent of the Times at Lourenzo Marques, telegraphing Tuesday, says: "The wholesale expulsion of British subjects now remaining in the Transvaal is expected next week. Schutte, military commander of the Rand, is maintaining his reputation as an unscrupulous and vindictive official. His latest move was an attempt to break open the vaults of the Rand Safe Deposit Company, ostensibly to obtain their securities for the residents."

"It appears that all the bridges on the Natal Railway and the Laings Nek tunnel and the bridges on the Free State line have been undermined so as to enable them to be destroyed at a moment's notice in the event of Boer retreat."

"The French liner Gironde has arrived here crowded with military-looking foreigners bound for the Transvaal. These include fifty Russian ambulance men, with Germans, Frenchmen, Italians and Greeks. Herr Potts, the Transvaal consul general here, has arranged for their conveyance to Pretoria by a special train."

FIGHTING AT COLESBURG.

British Reported to Have Attacked the Boers Last Saturday.

PRETORIA, Jan. 20.—A dispatch from Colesburg, Cape Colony, says the British attacked the Boer position at 10 o'clock this morning. There was heavy fighting, but with what result is not known. According to the latest accounts the Boers were holding their positions.

A dispatch from Colesburg, dated Jan. 13, says a patrol of two hundred men under Field Cornet Opperman, while scouting, was surrounded, but succeeded in fighting its way back. It is reported that four men were killed and thirty were wounded and made prisoners.

WHAT THE BOERS SAY.

British Are Firing Steel-Pointed Ammunition—Piercing Shot.

BOER CAMP, Upper Tugela River, Jan. 19.—The British now occupy three positions along the Tugela river. Their naval guns have been firing steel-pointed armor-piercing shells. Reports being received that 2,000 British cavalry were attempting to outflank us along the Drakensberg ridge, a strong patrol was sent to reconnoiter. Mistaking the signals, the scouts and patrol proceeded to a kopje from whence

PEACE REIGNED

NO DISCORD AT THE DEMOCRATIC CLUB BANQUET LAST NIGHT.

Only Fourteen People, Including Col. W. J. Bryan, Participated in the Love Feast.

TALKED AND MADE MERRY

ATE, DRANK AND TOLD EACH OTHER HUMOROUS STORIES.

Until Bryan's Head Began to Ache, When the Party Broke Up and the Colonel Retired.

TWO FILIPINOS REBUFFED

MR. BRYAN DECLINED TO SEE AGUINALDO'S REPRESENTATIVES.

He Didn't Object, However, to Shaking Hands with All the Silverites Who Called—Will Speak To-Day.

NEW YORK, Jan. 23.—William J. Bryan took breakfast at the Hoffman House this morning with a number of free silver and single tax leaders. Subsequently he received the newspaper reporters. When asked if he made a harmony speech at the Belmont dinner last night, Mr. Bryan answered: "I don't know if I used the word harmony or not, but I always speak in such a harmonious strain that no one can object unless he disagrees on the issue. As a matter of fact I talked very little on politics." Colonel Bryan declined to discuss the letter of Robert B. Roosevelt and others, protesting against his entertainment as the guest of the Democratic Club.

About noon Dr. Leveson, of Brooklyn, an anti-imperialist, called with two Filipinos, but Mr. Bryan refused to see them. Mr. Bryan's callers to-day were nearly all silverites. The gold Democrats held aloof. To-night Mr. Bryan dined at the Democratic Club as the guest of President John W. Keller, with twelve others. The clubhouse was crowded from 5 o'clock. The fact that Colonel Bryan was to be the guest at the club caused the seats in the general dining room on the third floor to be at a premium. Most of the tables in the general dining room were taken possession of as early as 5 o'clock. Some of the club members ate two dinners and drank twice as much wine as they wanted, waiting for the distinguished Nebraska arrival. The rooms and the corridors of the club were thronged long before Mr. Bryan arrived. The crowd pushed and thronged and waited for the guest of the evening. At exactly 7:30 o'clock a carriage drove up to the club. The first person to alight from this carriage was James S. Oliver, sergeant-at-arms of the national Democratic committee. He helped out William J. Bryan and ex-Governor Hogg, of Texas. Some called for three cheers for Bryan and they were given. The crowd in the corridor was so great that the doorman had some difficulty in making a way for Mr. Bryan and the others. President John W. Keller, of the club, pushed his way forward and grasped Mr. Bryan by the hand.

CRUSH IN THE DINING ROOM. There was a crush in the dining room and many persons were standing. The table at which the fourteen were to sit down was near the Fifth-avenue front. There were other tables all about it, all thronged with prominent members of the club. When Mr. Bryan entered the brilliantly lighted room there was much applause. There were no decorations. Those at the table of honor were: John W. Keller, W. J. Bryan, Maurice F. Holahan, ex-Governor Hogg, Judge S. Gorman, O. H. P. Belmont, Norman E. Mack, John Whalen, John F. Carroll, Thos. E. Grady, Bernard J. York, Andrew Freedman, Dr. J. B. Cosby, A. J. Brown.

There was a running fire of conversation on all sides of the table. Senator Grady and Mr. Bryan set all the guests at ease by telling some funny stories and there seemed to be a camaraderie of the fourteen diners. For a little over an hour Colonel Bryan and his fellow-diners at the little table ate and drank. Just as the last course had been finished Mayor Van Wyck entered the room. He hosted his way over to the table and sat down at one corner, between Commissioner Keller and Mr. Bryan. Mayor Van Wyck shook hands with Mr. Bryan, who arose to meet the mayor. There was some conversation and then the diners arose.

Accompanied by President Keller Mr. Bryan proceeded to the large reception room. Then a line was formed, and President Keller introduced those who shook hands with the guest. Nearly all the heads of the departments of the city were represented. After all had shaken hands Mr. Bryan stood talking with Mayor Van Wyck. The crowd gathered in the parlor hoping that a speech was to be made.

At a few minutes past 10 o'clock Mr. Bryan complained of a headache, and accompanied by Commissioner Keller and Senator Grady, he entered a carriage and was driven to his hotel. Before leaving the hotel Mr. Bryan was asked how he viewed his reception. "I am very much pleased with the cordiality of my reception," he said. "It does not seem possible that there could be many persons got in the place."

After Mr. Bryan had left, ex-Governor Hogg said: "This shows that there is no dissension. The club has given Mr. Bryan a royal reception. Of course he is here not as a guest of the club, but you can see that he is welcomed by all the members." Many of the members declared that the reception gave a decided impetus to the fact that the protest of Doyle, Fox and Roosevelt, did not represent the sentiment of the members of the club as a whole. After the reception Commissioner Keller said that he was gratified with what had passed. "I have said all I care to say about the Doyle, Fox and Roosevelt letter. I have invited Mr. Bryan and I would invite him to be my guest despite all they could say. I have written to these men telling them just what I think of them."

If they want to show this letter all right. I will not." Commissioner Keller said that he estimated that there were about 2,000 present at the club.

Mr. Bryan will take the 10 o'clock train to-morrow morning from the Grand Central Station for Stamford. He will also visit New Haven and return in time to go to Jersey City to-morrow evening. His Jersey City speech is expected to be an important enunciation of Democratic principles.

Call for Prohibition Convention. CHICAGO, Jan. 23.—The national convention of the Prohibition party to nominate candidates for President and Vice President of the United States and to transact such other business as may properly come before it, has been called to meet at the Coliseum, in this city, June 27. The basis of representation has been fixed by the national committee as follows: Each State is entitled to four delegates at large, and to twice as many delegates as the number of members of the lower house of Congress to which it is entitled; each State may send one additional delegate for every one thousand votes, or fraction thereof, cast for Joshua Levering for President in 1896; each Territory is entitled to two delegates; the District of Columbia is entitled to two delegates; each State or Territory is entitled to as many alternates as its number of delegates.

Elkins for Vice President.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23.—The name of Senator Elkins, of West Virginia, must be added to the list of those being considered for the vice presidential nomination by the Republicans. His name has been discussed in this section by party leaders and while the senator has made no announcement of his intentions, it is known he will not be adverse to rounding out his public career as vice president.

Altgeld Will Be with Bryan.

BOSTON, Jan. 23.—The Democratic State committee has received a telegram from ex-Governor John P. Altgeld of Illinois, accepting the invitation to take part in the reception of W. J. Bryan in this city on Tuesday next. It is expected Mr. Altgeld will join Mr. Bryan's party at Providence.

TESTIMONY AGAINST HIM

GOEBEL PROPITIED NOTHING BY THE HEARING YESTERDAY.

Time Is Extended on Both Sides of the Contest—A Notable Defection from the Czar's Ranks.

FRANKFORT, Ky., Jan. 23.—It will be approximately three weeks before the gubernatorial contest between Mr. Bryan and a vote thereon can be taken by that body. Chairman Hickman, of the Goebel-Taylor contest board, announced to-day that it had been determined to allow each side four days longer for the presentation of evidence. At least two days will be taken up by arguments, and Mr. Hickman said the board would require at least one week in which to go over the evidence and prepare its report. Ex-Governor Badley, for the contest, asked for more time and the Democratic attorneys gave him two days out of their four. The churches of Frankfort to-day united in a prayer service asking that all trouble from the political situation might be averted and that all danger of bloodshed be avoided. Three services were held in the Episcopal Church, one in the morning, the second in the afternoon and the third at night. All, particularly the last, were well attended. Louisville and its election troubles were the sole topic of the evidence presented to the contest board to-day.

Clarence Walker, of Louisville, official stenographer of the court in Louisville where Judge Toney presides, was the first witness introduced by the Republicans. He declared that Judge Toney was in Mr. Walker's office on Saturday last, after the issuance of the injunction declaring that the Brown-Johnson inspectors should be admitted to the polls, when Attorneys Kohn and Phelps, acting for the Democratic party, came in and asked to be heard on the injunction. Judge Toney, the witness said, told them to issue notice of a motion to dissolve the writ and he would hear it later. According to the statements of the witness the judge told the attorneys it would be unjust to the Democratic party if they did not take steps to have the injunction dissolved. They declined to do so and, according to Walker, seemed to prefer to have him overrule their motion so that they could take it to the Court of Appeals. Both Attorneys Phelps and Kohn are engaged in the present contest and the latter conducted the cross examination, but the witness stuck closely to his original statement.

At the night session John B. Baskin, an attorney of Louisville, testified in the same strain as many others who have preceded him on the Republican side. He said the presence of the militia in the army had a beneficial effect upon the situation and deterred nobody from going to the polls. Col. C. C. Mengel, commander of the troops that were gathered in the army, told of the manner in which the troops were handled on election day. Major John B. Purcell, whose evidence was unfinished at the time of adjournment, gave similar evidence to that of Mr. Baskin.

The House to-day decided the case of McKinney, Democratic contestant against Taylor, the Republican contestant of Trigg county, in favor of McKinney. Taylor was declared ineligible because holding the position of postmaster at the time of his election.

No Foundation in Law or Morals.

LEXINGTON, Ky., Jan. 23.—Judge J. R. Morton, ex-circuit judge and one of the leading supporters of Goebel in central Kentucky, will come out to-morrow in a case taking an advanced position on the situation at Frankfort. He says he has carefully examined the evidence of the contestants for the seats of the Republicans and has concluded that "the evidence offered by the contestants altogether fails to support the right or claim of contestants to the offices they seek. Their claim under evidence, in my judgment, is without foundation in law or in morals." He further says the course the Democrats are pursuing will plunge the party in "a gulf of disaster if not of dishonor." In opening his communication he says the situation at Frankfort at this time "is not unlike that which prevailed during the memorable winter of 1876-77, and of the awful days immediately preceding the civil war."

HIS LAST FIGHT

ROBERTS, THE POLYGAMOUS REPRESENTATIVE, DYING HARD.

Like an Animal at Bay, He Faces His Opponents and Defies Them to Finish His Political Career.

PLAYS TO THE GALLERIES

WHERE CROWDS OF WOMEN LISTEN TO HIS CUNNING ADDRESS.

Dramatic Appeal by the Mormon in Behalf of Recognition of Himself as a Member of the House.

NEW ORATOR FROM MAINE

SPEECH BY MR. LITTLEFIELD IN FAVOR OF MINORITY REPORT.

Mr. Taylor Speaks for Majority—Representative Landis to Answer Roberts To-Day—Compromise Possible.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23.—The House began this afternoon consideration of the Roberts case as it is set out in the majority and minority reports of the special committee appointed at the beginning of the session to investigate it after the House had denied him the right to be sworn in and take his seat on his prima facie case. Mr. Taylor, of Ohio, chairman of the special committee, who made the original objection to his being permitted to take the oath of office, and who prepared the majority report excluding him from the House altogether in spite of the fact that he had been duly elected and possessed the qualifications required by the Constitution, led off the debate in a new two hours' speech in support of the resolution of exclusion reported by him on behalf of the majority of the committee. He was followed by Mr. Littlefield, of Maine, successor of the late Nelson Dingley, in a two hours' speech in support of the minority report of the committee that Roberts be seated and then expelled if the House regards him as a fit subject for that drastic course. He in turn was followed by Mr. Roberts himself in a speech of an hour and a half in his own behalf. Mr. Roberts is to have a like time later in the debate if he desires it. The debate will continue until 4 o'clock on Thursday afternoon next, when the House will proceed to vote on the case.

The galleries were packed to suffocation, chiefly with women, and the spectators, after listening attentively to the arguments of Mr. Taylor and Mr. Littlefield, remained longer after nightfall to hear the impassioned words of the accused as he faced the House, like an animal at bay, knowing that every hand was raised against him. Mr. Roberts was very adroit in the handling of his case and at times exceedingly dramatic. Taking advantage of the issue raised by the division in the committee as to the method of ousting him, he appropriated to himself the argument of the minority that he was constitutionally entitled to be sworn in and the argument of the majority that, once sworn in, he could not be expelled. He defended the action of the Mormon in fighting the authority of the United States for years, because, he said, they believed that sentiment would change and dramatically stated that in these days he had rather have his flesh eaten from his bones than to have renounced his religious tenets. He concluded with an eloquent peroration in which he said he had never been conscious of a shameful act, and if he was sent forth he would go with head erect and undaunted brow straight to the front, as he said, to win his way from women. But while they appeared to be his only partisans other women manifested their bitter hostility by hissing him at every opportunity. Miss Roberts, daughter of Mr. Roberts, was in the reserve gallery throughout the debate.

One of the features of the debate to-day was the speech of Mr. Littlefield. It revealed that the action of the Mormon in fighting the authority of the United States for years, because, he said, they believed that sentiment would change and dramatically stated that in these days he had rather have his flesh eaten from his bones than to have renounced his religious tenets. He concluded with an eloquent peroration in which he said he had never been conscious of a shameful act, and if he was sent forth he would go with head erect and undaunted brow straight to the front, as he said, to win his way from women. But while they appeared to be his only partisans other women manifested their bitter hostility by hissing him at every opportunity. Miss Roberts, daughter of Mr. Roberts, was in the reserve gallery throughout the debate.